

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAM-01

SAB-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 OIC-02 DOTE-00

FMC-01 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-03 OES-03 /142 W

----- 120888

R 301215Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4270

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN POUCH

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE POUCH

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH

AMEMBASSY CARACUS POUCH

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO POUCH

AMEMBASSY DAKAR POUCH

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS POUCH

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD POUCH

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AMEMBASSY JORDAN POUCH

AMEMBASSY MEXICO POUCH

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI POUCH

AMEMBASSY PARIS POUCH

AMEMBASSY RABAT POUCH

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO POUCH

AMEMBASSY ROME POUCH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN POUCH

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AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI POUCH

AMEMBASSY TUNIS POUCH  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 5399

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EGEN UNGA  
SUBJECT: EGYPT AND 7TH UN SPECIAL SESSION

REF: STATE 75525, 112992

1. SUMMARY: WHILE EGYPTIANS CONSIDER THEMSELVES MODERATES AND MAY PLAY A HELPFUL ROLE IN RESOLVING CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN 7TH SS, THEY ARE FIRMLY IN GROUP OF 77. EGYPT'S ACTIONS WILL BE CONDITIONED BY SERIOUS ECONOMIC CRISIS AT HOME, LARGE DEBTS TO FOREIGN CREDITORS AND READINESS TO SEEK MEANS FOR ASSISTING COUNTRIES SUCH AS THEMSELVES THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PROCEDURES OR MECHANISMS IN ECONOMIC FIELD.

CONSEQUENTLY, EGYPT WILL VIEW WITH INTEREST PROPOSALS RELATED TO TRANSFER OF RESOURCES, COMMODITY INDEXING, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND DEBT SERVICING. THEY WILL ALSO BE LOOKING FOR WAYS IN WHICH LDC'S MAY PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGS. GIVEN EXCELLENT BILATERAL RELATIONS DEVELOPED IN PAST 18 MONTHS, IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT EGYPTIANS DEL AT 7TH SS WILL COOPERATE WITH US DEL WHENEVER IT CAN. BASIC EGYPTIAN POSITIONS, HOWEVER, WILL REMAIN LARGELY UNCHANGED FROM THOSE TAKEN IN PREVIOUS YEARS. END SUMMARY.

2. DISCUSSIONS WITH GOE OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, (WHO IN FINAL ANALYSIS HAVE LARGE SHARE IN FORMULATING POSITIONS TAKEN UP IN UN ORGS) HAVE LED EMBASSY TO BELIEVE THAT WHILE THERE MAY BE SOME CHANGES IN EGYPTIAN APPROACHES TO ISSUED IN 7TH UN SPECIAL SESSION, GOE DEL WILL LARGELY HOLD TO POSITIONS TAKEN IN PREVIOUS YEARS. A GENERAL REVIEW WITH MFA DIR INTL ECON AFF SAAD KHALIL AND HIS DEPUTY SALAH EZZAT AND OTHER OFFICERS WORKING ON SPECIALIZED MATTERS HAS INDICATED THAT PREPARATIONS FOR 7TH SS ARE STILL IN EARLY STAGES.

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3. GENERAL APPROACH: SEVERAL FACTORS ARE LIKELY TO CONDITION EGYPTIAN ACTIONS IN 7TH SS. FIRST OF ALL, THEY CONSIDER THEMSELVES "FIRMLY IN CAMP OF GROUP OF 77". KHALIL STATED THIS TO US AS POINT OF DEPARTURE IN CONVERSATIONS WE HAD WITH HIM ON MAY 26. HOWEVER, EGYPTIANS CONSIDER THEMSELVES MODERATES AND LIKE TO THINK THAT THEY WILL TAKE BALANCED AND REASONED POSITIONS. IN TALKS WITH US, THEY HAVE IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES WITH YUGOSLAVIA, BRAZIL AND INDONESIA. THEY WILL ALSO ENDEAVOR, WHERE POSSIBLE, TO BE HELPFUL

AS MEDIATORS IN RESOLVING CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES. US/EGYPTIAN BILATERAL COOPERATION OVER PAST YEAR IN EFFORT TO REACH SOLUTIONS TO ME PROBLEMS AND CURRENT USG MOVES TO ASSIST GOE IN STABILIZING ITS ECONOMY SHOULD TO SOME EXTENT AT LEAST CONDITION ATMOSPHERE AND ENHANCE US/GOE WORKING RELATIONSHIP IN INTL ORGS.

4. THE MORE SEVEREEGYPT'S INTERNAL ECONOMIC SITUATION BECOMES, THE MORE THEY WILL SEEK TO PLACE BLAME ELSEWHERE AND ONE NATURAL OUTLET IS TO FIND FAULT WITH EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. LARGE SUMS ARE SPENT BY GOE ON PURCHASE OF COMMODITIES, PARTICULARLY FOOD GRAINS TO KEEP EGYPTIAN POPULATION FROM GOING HUNGRY. EGYPTIANS LIVE IN A LAND OF GOVERNMENTAL SUBSIDIZATION OF KEY COMMODITIES AND OVER A BILLON DOLLARS YEARLY ARE SPENT FOR THIS PURPOSE. DOING AWAY WITH SUBSIDIES WOULD MEAN RAPID INFLATION AND HAVE PROFOUND POLITICAL CONNOTATIONS. IMF RECOMMENDATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT INFLATION LEVEL BE PERMITTED TO RISE TO EFFECT A RATIONALIZATION IS STRONGLY OPPOSED BY GOE AND IS, PERHAPS, SYMPTOMATIC IN EGYPTIAN EYES OF KIND OF HELP THEY DO NOT WISH TO HAVE FROM UN INSITTUTIONAL STRUCTURE.

5. ALTHOUGH EGYPT MAY NOT SPEAK OF ITSELF AS LESSER DEVELOPED, EGYPTIANS TEND TO VIEW ECONOMIC ISSUES THROUGH EYES OF AN LDC. WE HAVE NOTED RESIDUAL RESENTMENT IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM OVER THAT WHICH THEY CONSIDER TO BE LONG HISTORY OF DC MANIPULATION OF WORLD ECONOMIC SCENE. THEY ARE QUICK TO POINT OUT DC ACTIONS ARE DESIGNED TO PERPETUATE ADVANTAGES THOSE NATIONS ALREADY ENJOY AND SEE LITTLE PROSPECT THAT THERE WILL BE CHANGES IN THE ATTITUDES OF MAJOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN 7TH SS. DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH MFA OFFICIALS, IT WAS APPARENT THEY ARE STEEPED IN EXPERIENCE OF PAST YEARS OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN LDC'S AND DC'S. WHILE THEY HAVE BEEN OVERTLY RESPONSIVE TO SUGGESTIONS THAT EGYPT AND US COOPERATE TO ARRIVE AT CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS IN INTL ECONOMIC SPHERE, OLD ANTAGONISMS AND SUSPICIONS LIE JUST  
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BELOW THE SURFACE. THUS, MFA OFFICIALS WHO FORM NUCLEUS OF EGYPTIAN DELS ARE PERHAPS A STEP BEHIND OTHER ELEMENTS IN GOE IN THEIR READINESS TO ACCEPT US EXPRESSIONS OF DESIRE TO ASSIST LDC'S, AND COOPERATE IN THIS TASK WITH EGYPT, AT FACE VALUE.

6. WE NOTE WITH SATISFACTION EGYPTIAN REP AT USUN HAS ENDEAVORED TO PLAY MODERATE AND HELPFUL ROLE IN 7TH SS PREPARATIONS (USUN 1561). PROBLEM NOW WILL BE FOR EMBASSY TO ASSIST IN SEEING THAT HE GETS MODERATE INSTRUCTIONS FROM HOME OFFICE IN CAIRO. ON THIS SCORE WE MAY NOTE THAT VETERAN UN IN-FIGHTER KHALIL, HIMSELF, IS BEING TRANSFERRED OUT OF HIS POSITION AS HEAD OF MFA OFFICE OF INTL ECON AFFAIRS IN NEXT 2/3 WEEKS, REPORTEDLY TO BE FIRST EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO MOZAMBIQUE.

7. ON MATTERS TOUCHING ON ARAB/ISRAELI DISPUTE, EGYPTIANS VIEW

THEMSELVES AS LEADERS OF ARAB WORLD AND THEY MAY BE EXPECTED TO  
ACT IN MANNER WHICH WILL BE ACCEPTABLE IN EYES OF ARAB BRETHREN.  
SHOULD HARD-CORE ISSUES ARISE IN THIS SECTOR, EGYPTIAN DEL MAY  
ENDEAVOR TO BE HELPFUL TO A LIMITED EXTENT, BUT OUR EXPERIENCE HAS  
BEEN THAT THERE BASICALLY WILL BE LITTLE GIVE IN THEIR POSITIONS.

8. SPECIFIC ISSUES:

A. AGENDA - PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS AT LEAST SEEMED TO  
INDICATE THAT THERE MAY NOT BE TOO MUCH DIVERGENCE BETWEEN US  
AND EGYPTIAN VIEWS ON SELECTION OF MAJOR AGENDA ITEMS. GOE

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FMC-01 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-03 OES-03 /142 W

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R 301215Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4271

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY AMMAN POUCH

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CAIRO 5399

IS STILL IN EARLY STAGES OF CONSIDERING AGENDA, HOWEVER, KHALIL AND OTHERS AGREE THAT AGENDA SHOULD BE FORMULATED IN BROAD TERMS. WE SENSE THAT, ONCE HAVING SAID THIS, THEY WILL NEVERTHELESS WANT TO DISCUSS UNDER BROAD TERMS A VARIETY OF ITEMS WHICH MIGHT BE TROUBLESOME FOR US. THEY ARE DEEPLY INTERESTED IN COMMODITY PRICE INDEXING, EXPANSION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, DEBT SERVICING AND IN SECURING A GREATER ROLE FOR COUNTRIES SUCH AS THEMSELVES IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

B. UNGA AND SPECIAL SESSION AS AN ARENA FOR DISCUSSIONS OF ECONOMIC POLICY ISSUES: EGYPTIANS TEND TO BELIEVE ORGS SUCH AS GATT, IMF AND PERHAPS TO A LESS EXTENT, IBRD ARE DOMINATE BY DC'S AND ARE BODIES IN WHICH THEY CANNOT MAKE THEMSELVES HEARD EFFECTIVELY. WHILE THEY WISH TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AND DEPLORE LACK OF PROGRESS AT 6TH SS, THEY FEEL THAT IF LDC'S ARE EVER TO COME TO GRIPS WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND REDRESS SITUATION, ACTION MUST BE TAKEN IN UNGA. OTHERWISE. KHALIL STATED, "UNGA BECOMES NOTHING MORE THAN A DEBATING SOCIETY". EGYPTIANS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY ARE ESPECIALLY DESIROUS OF ACHIEVING "CONCRETE" RESULTS. TO DO THIS THEY HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THERE BE A SERIOUS REVIEW OF PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE IN THE SECOND DECADE OF DEVELOPMENT, HIGHLIGHTING PARTICULARLY WHERE TARGETS HAVE BEEN MISSED. ONCE HAVING DONE THIS, SPECIFIC AND PRACTICAL STEPS "WITH TEETH IN THEM" SHOULD BE TAKEN TO REDRESS SITUATION.

C. COMMODITY INDEXING: CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS IN EGYPT'S BALANCE OF PAYMENT DEFICITS, SEVERE DEPENDENCE ON COMMODITY IMPORTS, AND SETBACKS IN COTTON EXPORTS TEND TO MAKE EGYPTIANS VIEW COMMODITY INDEXING AS SOLUTION TO MANY OF THEIR PROBLEMS. IT IS

DIFFICULT TO ASSESS HOW FAR THEY HAVE GONE DOWN PATH OF WORKING OUT  
RAMIFICATIONS OF COMMODITY INDEXING. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS A  
READINESS TO TRY ANYTHING WHICH WILL PROMISE RELIEF. IT IS SIGNIFI-  
CANT, HOWEVER, THAT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOE OFFICIALS, INTEREST  
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WAS EXPRESSED IN SEC. KISSINGER'S KANSAS CITY SPEECH. THEY  
NOTED ESPECIALLY PROPOSAL FOR INTL SYSTEM OF GRAIN RESERVES IN  
WHICH THERE WOULD BE AGREEMENT ON PART OF EXPORTING AND IMPORTING  
NATIONS TO ARRIVE AT EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF RESERVE HOLDINGS WHICH  
WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT GRAIN PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY, WEALTH AND LINES  
OF TRADE OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES.

D. FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE: GIVEN EGYPTIANS'  
CURRENT PROBLEMS IN DEBT SERVICING, THERE IS SURE TO BE INTEREST IN  
THIS MATTER AT 7TH SS. WHILE THERE IS A DESIRE TO EXPAND DEVELOP-  
MENTAL ASSISTANCE, REAL IMPETUS COMES FROM NEED TO FIND A MEANS  
FOR PROVIDING DEBT RELIEF TO A STRAINED EGYPTIAN FINANCIAL SECTOR  
LIKELY TO BE FACING PROBLEMS FOR YEARS TO COME.

E. SHIPPING/SUEZ CANAL: EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS HAVE COMPLAINED  
TO US ABOUT PROBLEMS OF DISCRIMINATION IN SHIPPING RATES. THEY  
ASSERT THAT MAJOR POWER MARITIME COUNTRIES WITH LARGE  
SHIPPING FLEETS USE THEM TO GOVE IMPETUS TO THEIR OWN INDUSTRIAL  
EXPANSION. DC'S, THEY SAY, DEFINE FREIGHT IN TERMS OF VALUE,  
VOLUME OR WHATEVER IS MORE ADVANTAGEIOUS TO THEMSELVES.  
PRESENT 50 PERCENT SURCHARGE PLACED ON PORT OF ALEXANDRIA HAS BEEN  
MAJOR IRRITANT AND EGYPTIANS APPEAR QUICK TO ALIGN THEMSELVES  
WITH THOSE WHO WOULD SEEK TO BRING ABOUT GREATER CONTROL OF  
SHIPPING ACTIVITIES. OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL WILL ALSO MEAN THAT  
EGYPTIANS WILL VIEW CERTAIN ISSUES FROM STANDPOINT OF OPERATORS  
OF CANAL AND WILL BE ALERT TO MATTERS RELATED TO ESTABLISHMENT  
OF FREIGHT RATES AND INSURANCE, AS WELL AS OTHER ITEMS WHICH  
COULD AFFECT CANAL TRAFFIC.

F. USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES: WE SUSPECT THAT SHOULD  
OPPORTUNITY ARISE, MATTER OF COMPENSATION FOR USE BY ISRAEL OF  
EGYPT'S NATURAL RESOURCES (ABU RUDEIS OIL FIELDS) MAY BE  
BROACHED. IN CONVERSATION WITH ONE OFFICIAL (EZZAT), HE MENTIONED  
THIS ITEM IN PASSING AND COMING AS IT DID APROPOS OF NOTHING  
ELSE IN DISCUSSION, WE SUSPECT SOME THOUGH IS BEING GIVEN TO  
INCLUSION OF THIS TOPIC SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE.

G. ASSISTANCE FROM OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES: EGYPTIANS  
MAY BE RELATIVELY UNSYMPATHETIC, AT LEAST JUDGING FROM OUR DIS-  
CUSSIONS HERE, WITH EFFORTS TO ENLIST OIL PRODUCERS, PARTICULARLY  
ARAB STATES, TO DO MORE TO ASSIST LDC'S. WHEN REFERRING TO  
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MATTER OF TRANSFER OF RESOURCES, THEY MADE POINT WITH VEHEMENCE THAT SOME ARAB OIL PRODUCERS NOW ARE ALREADY CONTRIBUTING IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER ANYWHERE FROM 8-30 PERCENT OF GNP. WHEN WE COMMENTED ON HOW THESE FIGURES WERE ARRIVED AT AND USE TO WHICH FUNDS CONTRIBUTED WERE BEING PUT, THERE WERE NO ANSWERS. IMPRESSION GAINED, HOWEVER, IS THAT US GENEROSITY OVER YEARS IS OFTEN EITHER TAKEN FOR GRANTED BY SUCH INDIVIDUALS AS KHALIL OR AT WORST VIEWED AS MEANS BY WHICH WE HAVE DOMINATED AFFAIRS OF UN SYSTEM.

H. ECONOMIC DECLARATIONS: WHILE EGYPTIANS DISPLAY SOME IMPATIENCE WITH ALL THE RHETORIC OF PAST SESSIONS AND PARTICULARLY DEPLORE FRUITLESS CONFRONTATIONS AT 6TH SS, THEY TEND TO ACCEPT DECLARATION AND RHETORIC AS PART OF WAY THINGS HAVE TO BE DONE IF ATTENTION IS TO BE FOCUSED ON PROBLEMS FACING LDC'S. ONE MAY EXPECT EGYPT TO REMAIN IN RANKS OF 77 GROUP WHEN LATTER SUPPORT ANY GIVEN DECLARATION, UNLESS INDIVIDUAL PROPOSAL IS SO EXTREME AS TO PERMIT THEM TO BACK AWAY GRACEFULLY.

9. EMBASSY EXPECTS THAT IN COMING MONTHS AS EGYPT'S POSITIONS CRYSTALIZE AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS TAKE PLACE, WE WILL BE IN BETTER POSITION TO CONVEY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS EGYPTIANS MAY HAVE TO DEPT AND OTHER INTERESTED ADDRESSEES.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Office:** ACTION IO  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 7  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 75525, 75 112992  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <08 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EGYPT AND 7TH UN SPECIAL SESSION  
**TAGS:** EGEN, UNGA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006